PLAN BELIZE 2.0

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BELIZE 2025

A Country in Good Hands

" ... this mandate also increases expectation by Belizeans and we cannot betray that awesome trust Belizeans have placed in our hands."

– PM Briceño
UNCT Retreat 2025

■ Pg.2

PM Address to UNCT | Editorial: 'Good Hands' ■ Inside

Health Sector Strategic Plan People-Centered

2025-2034

■ Pg. 5

National Women's Commission

Outstanding Women's Award 2025

■ Pg. 8

Memorial and Tribute
AURELIO MARTINEZ

■ Pg. 2

UDP Ignores the South Failed LOO Leads Opposition

■ Pg. 10

Women's Month: "Accelerate Action: Rights, Equality, Empowerment for All Women & Girls"

BELIZE 2025

A Country in Good Hands

" ...We cannot betray that awesome trust Belizeans have placed in our hands." **PM Briceño UNCT Retreat 2025.**

On Wednesday, 26 March 2025, the United Nations Country Team in Belize convened a Strategic Planning Retreat at the Biltmore Plaza in Belize City. In a 'unitednationbz' Instagram post, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) shared that they were honored to welcome Prime Minister John Briceño to their annual strategic planning retreat, an honor that was reciprocated by PM Briceño.

Circa August 2024, a similar meeting was held that included Raul Salazar, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Belize and El Salvador to consider the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) 2022-2026 which was adopted by Belize in December 2021. One of the key highlights of meeting was the formal handing over of the UN Country Results Report (CRR) 2023. It also included a progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Belize after the Voluntary National Review (VNR) was completed.

One of the salient mandates of PlanBelize was 'WE IN THE WORLD', the exploration of new avenues of cooperation, the realignment of old ones, and the creation of a foreign policy that would advance Belize's development. This mandate was reflected at this year's strategic planning retreat and was indicative of the mood shift of the multilateral institutions for the Prime Minister, John Briceño's leadership and the restoration of confidence in the Belizean government. This had been lost under the Dean Barrow UDP administration of 13 years.

In his remarks to UNCT PM Briceño proffered, "The UN Development System is a key development partner and this gathering is a testament to the strong and enduring partnership between Belize and the United Nations, particularly under the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) 2022-2026." Undoubtedly, the Briceño administration has been committed to creating an enabling environment in the pursuit of the SDGs. In the context of the North Star document PlanBelize and a national priority overview, PM Briceño submitted to the Team some of the accomplishments and unprecedented achievements during the first term of government. Debt-to-GDP was slashed, poverty was reduced and employment opportunities were increased, the minimum wage was raised and infrastructure was expanded which encompassed the building of over 500 starter homes for mostly single mothers. Additionally, the expansion of free education and the National Health Insurance (NHI) rollout to the west completing the final phase of giving access to healthcare to approximately 400,000 Belizeans.

Importantly, with PlanBelize 2.0 launched and another super majority mandate from the people in the March 12th victory at the polls, the focus is on fostering economic resilience, sustainable development and social progress with sustainability remaining as the central pillar. The UNCT impressed "His engagement underscores the strong partnership between the Government of Belize and the United Nations, working together towards sustainable development and a brighter future for all." The Instagram post continued "His address highlighted critical national priorities and how UNCT can better support leaving no one behind."

But the assurance that Belize is a nation in good hands is realized in the Prime Minister's concluding remarks which must be rewritten en toto. "Friends, the path ahead requires your continued commitment, strategic partnership, and bold action. This retreat serves as a vital platform for reflection and dialogue amongst yourselves to strengthen your collaboration and support you all provide for the benefit of the people of Belize."

The PM continued "We are excited about the future and are thankful for the renewed mandate the Belizeans gave us on March 12th. But this mandate also increases expectation by Belizeans and we cannot betray that awesome trust Belizeans have placed in our hands."

The work continues in convincing the Belizean people that they made the right choice in giving the People's United Party the super majority victory in the General Elections 2025 and the United Nations remains in-tow extending its support towards the sustainable development and a brighter future for all.

A NICH Production

Memorial and Tribute

Aurelio Martinez

Tuesday March 25

Belizeans from all walks of life gathered at the Bliss Center for Performing Arts to honor the memory of Aurelio Martinez, the beloved Paranda legend whose music transcended borders and touched countless hearts. The evening was filled with heartfelt tributes, soulful performances, and poignant reflections on Martinez's enduring legacy. As the community comes together to celebrate Aurelio's life and contributions, the atmosphere is one of both sorrow and gratitude, a testament to the profound impact he had on Belizean culture and beyond. The sights were created by the people that attended and online and the sounds at the Bliss soothed out and made memorable by musicians who no doubt revered Aurelio Martinez.

First there was a Memorial Service led by lay Minister - Sebastian Cayetano, St Martin De Porres Church and Traditional Spiritual Leader, Bridget Pearl Miranda. The National Anthem was sung in Garifuna and English. More music during the memorial came in the normal course of the spiritual aspect.

The Aurelio Paranda Concert included this set list: Lándini, Mayahuaba, Tio Sam, Yalifu, Tili Bugudura, Wamada, Santo Negro, Sielpa, Naguya Nɛı, Mala Mujer, Wátina, Dügü, Africa, and Lumalali Lumaniga.

Musicians played with their heart and with the spirit that Aurelio passed on to them. These musicians at the Bliss were Austin Aranda, Lloyd Augustine, 'Bal T' Baltasar, Desiree Diego, Ivan Duran, Daton Castillo Jr., Rhodel Castillo, Lugua Centeno, Dayaan Ellis Jr., Dayaan "Nuru" Ellis, Denmark Flores, Mohobub Flores, Reckless Flores, Sam Harris, Tyrone Knight, Kenrick "Luvlace" Lewis. Newani Martinez, Henry Migz, Al Ovando, Kamao Palacio, Robert "Ragga" Palacio, Carlos Perrote, Sheldon Petillo, Ivan 'Sougida Solano, Emilio Thomas, and Marcela "Chela" Torres.

Representing the Belize City Council at the Service and Concert was Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller and Councillor Malcolm Nunez. They commented in a post: "As a city, we recognize and celebrate the immeasurable impact of Mr. Aurelio Martinez on our culture through his music. Though he may not have been born a Belizean, he proudly embraced our nation as his own. His music, spirit, and dedication left an indelible mark on our cultural landscape. Aurelio's contributions will continue to inspire and resonate deeply within our community, ensuring that his influence lives on for generations to come."

The Belize Times

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EDITORIAL

IN GOOD HANDS

By Human nature, we always act and react in our own defense for basic everyday living and general survival. Belizeans will take care of their own be it their children, their parents, or/and their spouses. And, in the sense of community, we are required to take care of our school children, our elderly, our mentally challenged and, in general, our fellow Belizeans as we work to build Belize. The former is easy to do, as they are our blood, but the latter demands great leadership and an efficient systematic approach to achieve optimal citizen enhancement and security in the classrooms, in the hospitals, on the streets, and at the workplace. On March 12, 2025, Belize went to the General Election polls arguably with their children and future in mind. Politically, the UDP faithful either stayed home or marked their ballots in protest destined to be rejected. Support for the UDP from floating voters was non-existent as the two UDP parties, Shyne's and Tracy's, failed from nomination day and, probably from before, to present full slates worthy of a Belizean vote. The People's United Party humbly placed their collective body of 2020-2025 achievements in a proverbial knapsack and campaigned on the streets and in homes in a persuasive mode asking for the electorate's vote for a new mandate. The PUP was heeding their leader John Briceño who voiced at every rostrum that his team was not taking the Belizean people for granted. The PUP campaigned to take care of Belize for another term.

The local and international success of planBelize can be quickly eroded by arrogance which the PUP team has proven to not have. The Briceño/planBelize 2.0 team presented their new plan in the simplest of forms. This is what we did and we will do more of it. The PUP created an environment for 27, 500 new jobs and, now, just 3 per cent or less are unemployed; the PUP will make more and better jobs available for them and the new graduates entering the workforce. Over 600 one-bedroom of 100 dollars-a-month houses for single-parent homes were distributed; the PUP will match that with offering two-bedroom houses. All Public hospitals were switched to free and the National Health Insurance bolstered by our Boledo was rolled out Nationwide; Cayo, in NHI opening process, will have full NHI by the second quarter and will receive a new tertiary care hospital in Belmopan matched by San Pedro/Caye Caulker's new General Hospital. Yes, we do not eat infrastructure so the PUP made sure to construct relevant and resilient roads, highways, bridges and a solidly-led MIDH with 1.3 billion dollars boosting agricultural efficiency, tourist satisfaction, and record export levels; the PUP will continue this from sugar roads, to the George Price and Philip Goldson Highways and to bridges like the replacements to the Belcan and the Swing.

The above is some of why people gave the PUP a new mandate. The above is why the UDP faithful realized they have nothing in their two UDPs to vote for. While these two UDPs insulted the nation by using the sacred General Elections to settle their internal dispute, the PUP was people-driven and data-driven in a modern, youth-driven mode. The people saw a PUP team with Belize as the impetus. The Belizean people were convinced in unprecedented numbers that John Briceño and planBelize 2.0 and his team are the best stewards for our priceless Belize.

Who and why people vote for is always the subject of debate. Do they vote for a little handout? Do they vote for personality? Do they vote for party? The argument for 2025-2030 might be settled. The people voted for the best plan with John Briceño in charge. Let's keep in mind, Belize's Prime Minister is great and charismatic. Belizean people, all Representatives and citizens, are magnificent workers and law-abiding. Together they make up the planBelize 2.0 team. Vamos Bien! Belize in 2025 - 2030 is in good hands.

EDITORIAL

en Español

EN BUENAS MANOS

Por naturaleza humana, siempre actuamos y reaccionamos en nuestra defensa para la vida cotidiana básica y la supervivencia general. Los beliceños cuidan de los suyos, ya sean sus hijos, sus padres o sus cónyuges. Y, en el sentido de comunidad, estamos obligados a cuidar de nuestros escolares, nuestros ancianos, nuestros discapacitados mentales y, en general, de nuestros compatriotas beliceños mientras trabajamos para construir Belice. Lo primero es fácil de hacer, ya que son nuestra sangre, pero lo segundo exige un liderazgo excelente y un planteamiento eficiente y sistemático para lograr una mejora óptima de los ciudadanos y de la seguridad en las aulas, en los hospitales, en las calles y en el lugar de trabajo. El 12 de marzo de 2025, Belice acudió a las urnas en las Elecciones Generales, posiblemente pensando en sus hijos y en su futuro. Políticamente, los fieles del UDP se quedaron en casa o marcaron sus papeletas en señal de protesta, destinados a ser rechazados. El apoyo al UDP por parte de los votantes flotantes fue inexistente, ya que los dos partidos del UDP, el de Shyne y el de Tracy, fracasaron desde el día de la nominación y, probablemente desde antes, a la hora de presentar listas completas dignas del voto de los beliceños. El Partido Unido del Pueblo guardó humildemente sus logros colectivos de 2020-2025 en una proverbial mochila e hizo campaña en las calles y en los hogares de forma persuasiva, pidiendo el voto del electorado para un nuevo mandato. El PUP estaba prestando atención a su líder, John Briceño, que expresó en cada tribuna que su equipo no daba por sentado al pueblo beliceño. El PUP hizo campaña para cuidar de Belice una legislatura más.

El éxito local e internacional de planBelice puede verse erosionado rápidamente por la arrogancia que el equipo del PUP ha demostrado no tener. El equipo Briceño/planBelice 2.0 presentó su nuevo plan de la forma más sencilla. El plan establecía lo que hicimos y haremos más. El PUP creó un entorno para 27.500 nuevos empleos, y ahora, sólo el 3% o menos de los beliceños están desempleados; el PUP pondrá más y mejores empleos a su disposición y a disposición de los nuevos graduados que se incorporan a la población activa. PlanBelize distribuyó más de 600 viviendas de un dormitorio por 100 dólares al mes para hogares monoparentales; el PUP y PlanBelize 2.0 igualarán esa cifra ofreciendo viviendas de dos dormitorios. PlanBelize también cambió todos los hospitales públicos a gratuitos y puso en marcha el Seguro Nacional de Salud, reforzado por nuestro Boledo, en todo el país; Cayo, en el proceso de apertura del NHI, tendrá NHI completo para el segundo trimestre y recibirá un nuevo hospital de atención terciaria en Belmopán, igualado por el nuevo Hospital General de San Pedro/Caye Caulker. Sí, no comemos infraestructura, por lo que el PUP se aseguró de construir carreteras, autopistas, puentes relevantes y resistentes y un MIDH sólidamente dirigido con 1.300 millones de dólares, impulsando la eficiencia agrícola, la satisfacción de los turistas y los niveles récord de exportación; el PUP continuará con esto desde las carreteras azucareras hasta las autopistas George Price y Philip Goldson y puentes como las sustituciones del Belcan y el Swing.

Esta es una de las razones por las que el pueblo dio un nuevo mandato al PUP. Esta es la razón por la que los fieles del UDP se dieron cuenta de que no tenían nada en sus dos UDP por lo cual votar. Mientras estos dos UDP insultaban a la nación utilizando las sagradas Elecciones Generales para resolver su propia disputa interna, el PUP fue impulsado por personas y datos en un modo moderno, impulsado por personas y datos en un modo moderno e impulsado por los jóvenes. El pueblo vio un equipo del PUP con Belice como el ímpetu. En un número sin precedentes, el pueblo beliceño se convenció de que John Briceño y planBelice 2.0 y su equipo son los mejores administradores para nuestro invaluable Belice.

Siempre se debate a quién y porque vota la gente. ¿Votan por una limosna? ¿Votan por una personalidad? ¿Votan a un partido? Las recientes elecciones resuelven el argumento para 2025-2030. El pueblo votó por el mejor plan con John Briceño a su cargo. Recordemos que el Primer Ministro de Belice es grandioso y carismático. Los beliceños, todos los representantes y ciudadanos, son magníficos trabajadores y respetuosos de la ley. Juntos forman el equipo del planBelice 2.0. ¡Vamos Bien! Belice en 2025 - 2030 está en buenas manos.

BELIZE HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2034

A Healthier, Empowered Belize through a Resilient, Equitable, and People-Centered Health System

Belize's healthcare system will be undergoing a reset with the Ministry of Health and Wellness launching its Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan (BHSSp) 2025-2034 on Friday, March 21, 2025. The plan is realized through a highly consultative process, which engages diverse stakeholders, including government ministries, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and, the community. According to the Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon Kevin Bernard, as stated in the Foreword, it is a comprehensive and forward-looking blueprint designed to advance health and wellbeing for all Belizeans. The importance of the BHSSP is embedded in the Covid era when the world including Belize was caught in the vicious Vice of the pandemic. It was in March 2020, when the 66 members of the Cuban Brigade, aka White Coats, flew into Belize to assist in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Minister Bernard highlighted "This plan builds on the foundation of the previous strategic period while responding to emerging health challenges with innovative and inclusive solutions. It reflects our unwavering commitment to strengthening Belize's health system and ensuring no one is left behind as we progress towards Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC)." The plan is also aligned with the nation's vision for a healthier future, where the citizens will be able to access high-quality health services regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic location.

The BHSSP 2025-2034 will be the first policy agenda to be developed by the People's United Party (PUP) government since taking office in November 2020 following the super majority victory at the polls. Incidentally, under the United Democratic Party (UDP) there was a Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014-2024, unfortunately, the implementation of many of the policy designs was lacking in especially the resources needed to stave off the pandemic.

The BHSSP 2025-2034 is structured upon three interconnected strategic objectives that the Ministry of Health and Wellness considers critical to the achievement of its overarching goals: Strengthening MOHW leadership and stewardship; Establishing a comprehensive, equitable, and people-centred health system by a solid governance structure; Promoting healthier choices and behaviors among individuals, families, and communities by empowering them to understand and actively exercise their Right to Health. Nonetheless, a plan is only as effective as its implementation. And Nurse Lizette Bell call for a multi-sectoral approach across a myriad of sectors including finance, education, social protection, human development, industry and commerce amongst others. But it was Dr. Polanco, who in his closing remarks admonished the presenters to hold them to their commitments to achieve the overarching goals of the BHSSP 2025-2034. In his closing remarks, Minister Bernard expressed the profound statement "Let us ensure that universal health is not just an aspiration, but a reality." A priority component of PlanBelize 2.0 regarding the health sector and a commitment to well-being.

By Hilly Bennett

Ministry Release excerpt

The plan is built upon three interconnected strategic objectives:

- Strengthening leadership and governance within the Ministry of Health and Wellness to enhance accountability and regulatory capacities.
- Establishing a comprehensive, equitable, and people-centered health system by improving service delivery, financing mechanisms, and workforce development through evidence-based research, policymaking, and practice.
- Promoting healthier lifestyles and empowering individuals, families, and communities to understand and exercise their right to health through targeted health promotion initiatives and multi-sectoral collaboration.

Building on previous health sector advancements, the BHSSP 2025-2034 incorporates lessons learned to improve efficiency, expand access to essential health services, and strengthen institutional capacity. A robust monitoring and evaluation framework will guide its implementation, ensuring that progress is tracked, challenges are identified, and strategies are adapted to meet the evolving health needs of the population. The Ministry of Health and Wellness acknowledges the contributions of key partners, including PAHO/WHO, the European Union, academia, civil society, and other stakeholders, in developing this strategic plan. Their collaboration and commitment will play a crucial role in achieving the plan's objectives.

A digital copy of the Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan (BHSSP) 2025- 2034 is available by scanning the QR code provided.

CHAPTER 194, LAWS OF BELIZE NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13

In accordance with Section 13 of the Registered Land Act Chapter 194, **I Patricia Robateau Blackett**, Registrar of Lands, hereby serves notice that within one month from the date hereof, I intend to register the following parcels of land listed below for which application for first registration have been received.

The attention of the general public is hereby drawn to this notice. Any person whose rights and interest may be affected by the registering of these parcels must get in touch with me before expiry date of this notice between Mondays to Fridays at the Land Registry, Belmopan.

Patricia Robateau Blackett (Mrs.)
Registrar of Lands

APPLICATION NO. LRS-202212639

This parcel of land is situated in the Registration Section **FORT GEORGR / PICKSTOCK Block No. 45** and being **Parcel No. 438 Formerly Lot No. 1933,** 479.920 Square Yard Situate at the corner of Douglas Jones & Castle Streets, Belize City, Belize District, Belize.

This parcel of land is subject of a Deed of Assent No. 1922 of 1996 dated 21st August, 1996 and recorded in Deeds Book Volume 19 of 1996 Folios 71 to 80 in favor of **ELEANOR LOUISE LEWIS.**

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 5/2025

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be $83,200,000.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Thursday, 3 April 2025 and will be redeemed on Thursday, 3 July 2025.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 28 March 2025.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Thursday 3 April 2025.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VEHICLE

Consejo Village, Corozal District; Belize City, Belize District: Placencia North, Stann Creek District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vehicle. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vehicle are sold.

1. Parcel 2115 No. 6 Placencia North, Stann Creek District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Placencia North	36	2115
Freehold property of Mr. Dustin Bowen & Mrs. Jodie Bowen		

2. Parcel No. 418 Consejo Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Consejo	1	418
Freehold property of Mr. Antonio Gutierrez.		

3. Vehicle

2016 Nissan Frontier 4*4 Pickup

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

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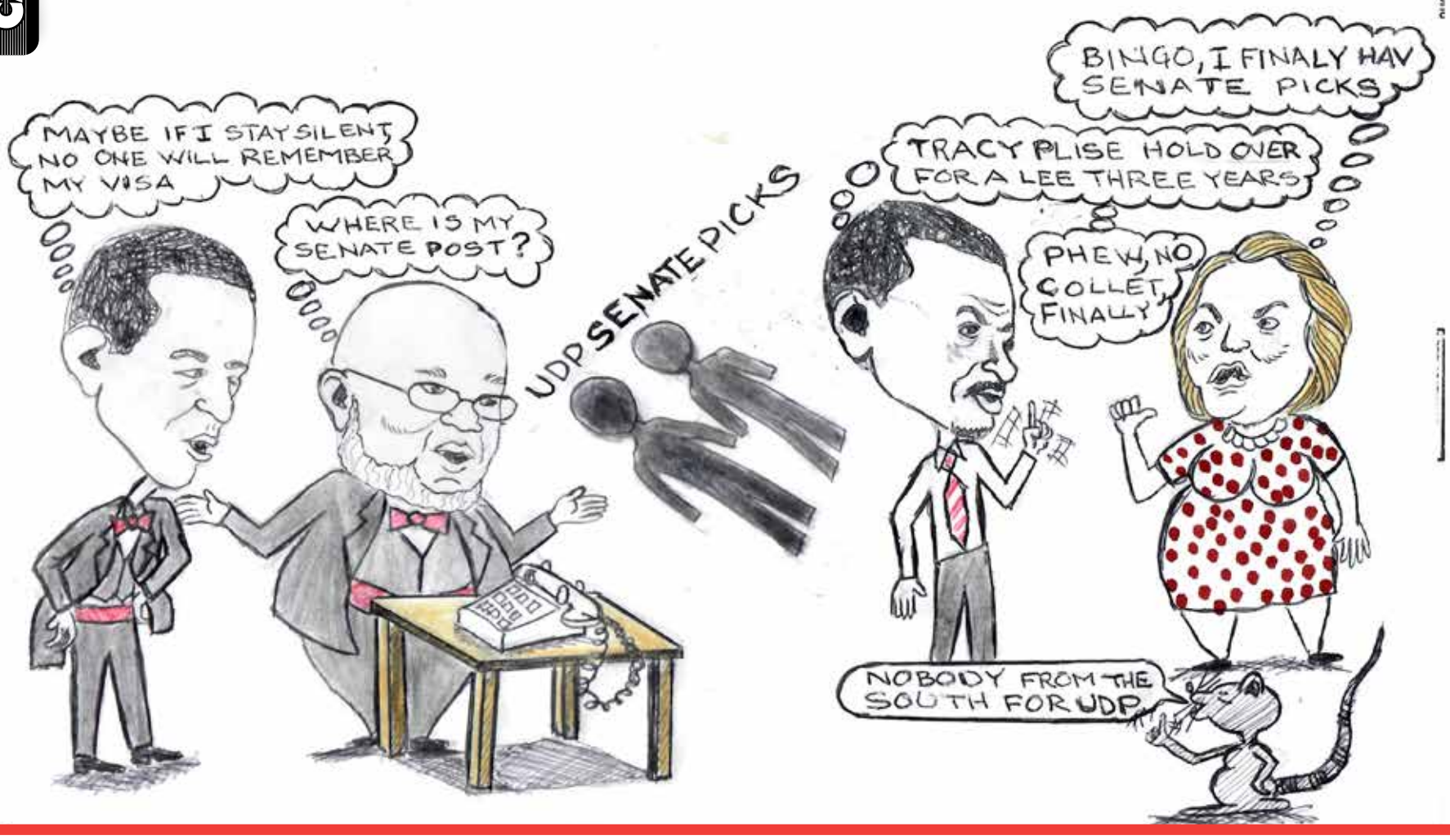
CARTOON

STOOD UP


MAYBE IF I STAY SILENT, NO ONE WILL REMEMBER MY VISA
WHERE IS MY SENATE POST?
UDP SENATE PICKS
BINGO, I FINALY HAV SENATE PICKS
TRACY PLISE HOLD OVER FOR A LEE THREE YEARS
PHEW, NO COLLET, FINALLY
NOBODY FROM THE SOUTH FOR UDP

Statement by *Prime Minister* John Briceño

Opening of the United Nations Country Team in Belize Strategic Planning Retreat

Mr. Raul Salazar, United National Resident Coordinator for Belize and El Salvador
Heads of United Nations Organization
Esteemed members of the United Nations Country Team
Senior Government Officials
Distinguished guests, colleagues, and friends
Good morning,

Thank you for extending the invitation to open this important strategic planning retreat of the United Nations Country Team in Belize.

The UN Development System is a key development partner and this gathering is a testament to the strong and enduring partnership between Belize and the United Nations, particularly under the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) 2022-2026.

This UNCT Retreat, I am sure, will discuss ways in which we can work together in today's context. How we do more with less, how we become more efficient, how we better exploit synergies, communicate more effectively, and take a truly collective approach to tackling cross cutting issues.

I encourage you to explore innovative ways in which to collaborate. This year, as an example, Belize saw the first project supported by UN Women and UNDRR which is being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government through the Joint SDG Fund.

National Priorities Overview

The Government of Belize is committed to creating an enabling environment to facilitate sustainable development. We have accomplished a lot already: reduced the public debt, reduced poverty, raised the minimum wage; created more jobs, and expanded infrastructure.

A strong foundation for economic growth has been established. But that economic growth must be translated into development and into better lives for Belizeans. And on that score, we are working tirelessly to continue to reduce poverty, expand free education to secondary schools, to make primary health care free across this country and we have built over 500 starter homes, mostly for single mothers.

As many of you know we are reviewing the achievements of MTDS 2022-2026 for which we requested technical assistance from UNDP. This will inform our preparations for preparing an MTDS post 2026.

We have released PlanBelize 2.0 which refines government's plans for the second term. Plan Belize 2.0 focuses on fostering economic resilience, sustainable development, and social progress. Key priorities include expanding job opportunities and increasing the minimum wage once more. We intend to invest in tourism with new international routes and infrastructure investments, including Belize's first direct airline connection to Europe, a $250 Million expansion investment at the PGIA and an $800M cruise and container port.

Sustainability remains a central pillar, with conservation efforts such as the Blue Bond initiative and the soon to be announced Project finance for Permanence, PfP, marine protection, and eco-tourism expansion. Investments in education and innovation will enhance free education access, vocational training, and STEAM programs, while infrastructure projects will improve highways, potable water access, and affordable housing.

The health sector will see expanded National Health Insurance coverage, upgraded medical facilities, new hospitals and enhanced mental health services, alongside strengthened social welfare programs promoting gender equality and child protection.

Security, governance, and environmental sustainability also feature prominently in the plan. Law enforcement and crime prevention strategies will be modernized, while constitutional and legal reforms will strengthen justice and human rights. Belize's foreign policy will focus on expanding trade, diplomatic engagement, and defending our territorial integrity at the ICJ. We are starting a project spearheaded by IOM to improve border security and coordination.

In agriculture, Plan Belize 2.0 seeks to boost agro-processing and exports, diversify crop production, and strengthen food security policies. Environmental initiatives include waste management improvements, carbon credit programs, and clean energy projects with huge investments in solar energy, ensuring climate resilience and sustainable growth. By integrating these strategic initiatives, Belize aims to create a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future for all its citizens.

In addressing these areas, we recognize that data-driven decision-making must be at the core of policy development. As Prime Minister, with the additional responsibility for e-governance, I have a vested interest in ensuring that robust data collection and analysis, informs strategies that deliver tangible and sustainable outcomes for all Belizeans. I am also appointing a small team of Ministers that will be laser focussed on ensure a minimum of 5% GDP growth annually.

Strategic Global Initiatives

Having received a renewed mandate, I have the immense responsibility to continue laying the groundwork that will lead Belize into a stronger future. The current geopolitical landscape has placed pressure on multilateralism and international cooperation demanding that both governments and international agencies explore diversified financing mechanisms.

I encourage the UNCT to look towards strengthening relationships with non-traditional partners. The Government of Belize is committed to ensuring the first project "Enabling of the Statistical System" with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) which is a success and that we can access larger and more impactful projects. And of course we continue to strengthen our relationship with Taiwan and develop more projects and initiatives that benefit both of our citizens.

In this regard, the recently agreed global frameworks present a pivotal opportunity for Belize and other nations. The Pact for the Future, encompassing the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration for Future Generations, sets forth a forward-looking vision for sustainable development. Additionally, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) underscores the unique vulnerabilities of small island developing states like Belize, calling for enhanced resilience-building measures. The upcoming Fourth Financing for Development Summit further presents a platform to mobilize financial resources and shape innovative solutions for our shared development challenges.

We acknowledge the role of the UN in supporting Belize through recent global reviews and reporting mechanisms, including the 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR), the Fourth Cycle Universal Periodic Review, CEDAW, CRC, and other treaty body reports. These assessments provide valuable insights that help refine and re-define our rights-based approach to development.

Strategic National Initiatives

We will continue to integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into everything that we do. To do this, we will continue to enhance our capacity to access and absorb climate finance. As you know we have committed to the development of an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to better support our efforts at mobilising climate finance from all sources.

Additionally, Belize is prepared to maximize opportunities presented by two new global climate finance instruments: the Loss and Damage Fund, which addresses unavoidable climate impacts, and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. We note however, that realizing the full potential of these funds will require strengthened partnerships and technical assistance. We look forward to continued coordination with our UN Partners in this regard.

On the governance front, the Government of Belize is advancing efforts to establish a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI) with the support of UNDP and OHCHR. We are also finalizing key social protection strategies, including a costed Social Protection Floor, developed in collaboration with UNICEF, WFP, and ILO. These initiatives demonstrate our firm commitment to protecting the most vulnerable and fostering social cohesion.

Call for Continued Partnerships and Coordination

We firmly believe that the responsibility for Belize's development lies firmly with the Government of Belize and the Belizean people. Last year, we fully operationalized the International Cooperation Council (ICC) and the Strategic Alliance Conferences as platforms for dialogue and collaboration. The ICC will continue to serve as government's coordinator of all development assistance to Belize and the Strategic Alliance Conference will be the platform through which government and our development partners engage.

I commend the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and the UNRCO for their ongoing coordination efforts through the Joint National Steering Committee. We will continue to support this mechanism through high level and active participation in meetings, as well as supporting the development of an agenda that continues to address emerging needs. The Joint National Steering Committee is a practical example of a collaborative mechanism that ensures the alignment between Belize's national priorities and UN support.

We must also continue exploring new partnerships at the national, regional, and global levels to mobilize much-needed resources for accelerating climate financing and access resources for Disaster Risk Management in Belize. Last year, Belize faced significant climate-related disasters including forest fires, flooding, and two tropical storms. These events underscore the urgent need for deeper engagement with UNDRR and other climate-focused entities. We must recognize the climate crisis not only as an environmental challenge but as a broader threat impacting our economy, public health, and national security.

Conclusion

Friends, the path ahead requires your continued commitment, strategic partnerships, and bold action. This retreat serves as a vital platform for reflection and dialogue amongst yourselves to strengthen your collaboration and the support you all provide for the benefit of the people of Belize.

We are excited about the future and thankful for the renewed mandate Belizeans gave us on 12 March. But this mandate also increases expectation by Belizeans and we cannot betray that awesome trust Belizeans have placed in our hands.

Therefore let us continue to work together to ensure that our actions, focused decisions and strategic approaches discussed today, and in the days ahead, lay the foundation for a more prosperous, resilient, and sustainable future for all and for Belizeans to be convinced that they made the right decision two weeks ago.

Thank you.

OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S AWARD 2025

"Accelerating Action: Rights, Equality, Empowerment for All Women and Girls"

On March 20th, 2025, The National Women's Commission proudly hosted the 20th Annual Outstanding Women's Award Ceremony. This year we recognized the incredible contributions of 14 remarkable women from across Belize. These women were honored for their dedication in areas such as Women in Poverty, Human Rights of Women, and The Girl Child, among others. These areas of concern are in alignment with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

While we could only award a few, we celebrate the efforts of ALL WOMEN who continue to drive change and inspire communities. Your hard work does NOT go unnoticed!

A heartfelt thank you to all our partners: The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support & Gender Affairs, The Embassy of the Republic of China Taiwan, GraceKennedy Belize Ltd., and our NWC Team for making this event possible!

Special Envoy Rosanna Briceño as one of the presenters was elated to post the following:

"On March 20, 2025, we celebrated the incredible women who continue to shape Belize's future! Under this year's theme, 'Accelerating Action: Rights, Equality, Empowerment for All Women and Girls,' we are reminded that while progress has been made, our collective efforts must continue. From classrooms to clinics, boardrooms to grassroots activism, Belizean women are the backbone of our communities –-leaders, entrepreneurs, environmentalists, and advocates who inspire change every day.

It was my distinct honor to present awards to two outstanding Belizean women whose contributions have made a lasting impact on our society."

The 14 women were recognized for their contributions in various areas of concern including: Women in Poverty, Education and Training of Women, Women and Health, Women and the Economy, Women and the Environment, Women in Uniformed Services, Human Rights of Women, Violence against Women, Women in Power and Decision Making, Women in the Media and, The Girl Child (Youth). We recognized these remarkable women in alignment with the Beijing Platform for Action—a call to action that we continue to uphold in our policies, programs, and advocacy efforts— and this framework outlines 12 critical areas of concern, many of which were reflected in the awardees.

The awardees are:

1. Isabel Bennet Moody for Women in Power and Decision Making

Senator Isabel Bennett Moody, is a dedicated nurse educator, health advocate, and community leader. With a career spanning over two decades, she has contributed immensely to nursing education, public health initiatives, and community development in Belize. She embodies the true spirit of service and leadership.

2. Carmelita Perez for Women in the Media

Carmelita 'Camy' Perez, is a trailblazer in Belizean media, with a career spanning nearly three decades. From her early days as a radio announcer to becoming a news director and media manager, she has broken barriers in a male-dominated industry. A dedicated advocate for the Spanish-speaking community, she ensures critical issues—such as the role of women in the sugarcane industry—are brought to light. Through her leadership and mentorship, Camy continues to inspire and pave the way for future generations of women in journalism.

3. Dr. Elma Kay for Women in the Environment

Dr. Elma Kay is a passionate conservationist and advocate for community-driven environmental protection and human rights. Beyond her leadership in conservation, she champions good governance, equal rights, and public participation as Chairwoman of the Belize Network of NGOs. She has played a pivotal role in securing the protection of over a quarter million acres of Belize's forests, ensuring long-term preservation for future generations. Committed to mentorship, Dr. Kay has guided and inspired many young Belizeans.

4. Cynthia Williams for Human Rights of Women

Ms. Cynthia Williams has dedicated her life to volunteerism, gender equality, and community empowerment. From

Continued on page 9

ADVISORY

The **Ministry of Health & Wellness** strongly advises consumers against the purchase or consumption of the supplement:

Vitafer-L

This product has been found to contain undeclared substances that may pose health risks.

Anyone who has encountered these or other questionable health products is encouraged to report them to the Ministry of Health & Wellness at **drugalerts@health.gov.bz** or by calling **+501-880-2363**

Government of BELIZE

www.health.gov.bz

OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S AWARD 2025

Continued from page 8

tutoring at-risk youth to delivering meals to the elderly, her commitment to service shaped her path as a feminist and advocate. Beyond her policy work, Cynthia spearheaded programs that uplift women, mentor young leaders, and engage men as allies in gender equality efforts. She continues to push for systemic change, ensuring women and families in Belize have greater opportunities.

5. Linkeisha Martinez for the Girl Child

Linkeisha, is a young woman of remarkable strength and resilience. Despite early doubts, she has defied expectations, emerging as a dedicated leader and role model. Now a Third Form student at San Pedro High School, she serves as Class President, excels as an honor roll student, and showcases her team spirit in the school's marching band. With unwavering confidence and determination, Linkeisha leads by example, proving that hard work and self-belief can turn challenges into triumphs

6. Corporal Carmella Cacho for Women in Uniformed Services

Ms. Carmella Cacho is a dedicated community leader and humanitarian committed to uplifting those around her. Passionate about youth and community engagement, she organizes Easter treat giveaways, Christmas initiatives, and food hampers for families in need. She also collaborates with phenomenal women in her village to create festive events that bring joy and unity. Known for her generosity, she often prepares and shares meals with community members, believing that small acts of kindness make a big impact. With a heart for service, Carmella continues to spread positivity, hope, and empowerment in her community.

7. Marciela Assi for Education and Training of Women

Ms. Marcelia Assi, is a proud Q'eqchi' Maya Woman who is dedicated to empowering rural women in Toledo. With over 15 years in the NGO sector, she has trained women in nearly 40% of Toledo's communities, transforming traditional skills into sustainable businesses. As the founder of Home of Indigenous Arts Belize Limited, she champions financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership, ensuring indigenous women not only preserve their heritage but also thrive as business leaders.

8. Dorla Bowman for Human Rights & Violence against Women

Ms. Dorla Bowman is a trailblazing advocate and leader in gender equality and social justice in Belize. From her early days as a teacher to spearheading national movements, she played a pivotal role in establishing the National Women's Commission, lobbying for CEDAW, and advancing the Domestic Violence Act. A recipient of the Commonwealth Points of Light Award, Dorla's four decades of activism have shaped policies, created safe spaces for women, and inspired generations to champion justice and equality.

9. Katia Montenegro Hoare for Women and the Economy

Katia Montenegro Hoare, is a passionate advocate for women's economic empowerment and a trailblazer in business leadership. As the founder of Montrans Consulting and the International Network of Women in Business (NIME) Belize, she has created impactful opportunities for women entrepreneurs. Her leadership has secured key partnerships, including a groundbreaking initiative with the IDB to support women-led businesses. A recognized leader across Latin America, Katia's influence extends beyond Belize, championing innovation, sustainability, and gender equality on the international stage.

10. Dassia Regaldo for Women and the Environment

Ms. Dassia Regaldo is a passionate environmental advocate transforming waste into opportunity through her 3Rs initiative, which promotes reducing, reusing, and recycling in Seine Bight and beyond. As a Trashblitz Associate with Sea of Life and founder of Empress Media, she merges conservation, sustainability, and gender equality advocacy. Recognized as a 30 Under 30 Ignite Caribbean honoree, Dassia's leadership in climate resilience, youth empowerment, and innovative conservation efforts continues to shape a greener, more inclusive Belize.

11. Carlette Gentle for Women and the Economy

Sister Carlette Gentle, is a dedicated advocate for older persons and the founder of LIFE (Living Independently in Full Existence). With a Master's in Clinical Social Work and a passion for service, she has spent over a decade improving the lives of seniors in Southside Belize City. Through LIFE, she addresses housing, social support, food access, medical care, and transportation, ensuring that older persons live with dignity, independence, and a strong sense of community.

12. Inspector Hortence M. Hernandez for Women in Uniformed Services

Ms. Hortence Hernandez is a seasoned law enforcement officer with over 24 years of dedicated service to Belize. Having worked in multiple units within the Belize Police Department, she combines her expertise with a passion for community service and women's empowerment. A mentor, advocate, and proud mother of five, Hortence leads by example—uplifting others through her charitable efforts, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to justice and resilience.

13. Dr. Golda Mejia for Women and Health

Dr. Golda Mejia, affectionately known as Doctor G, is a force of compassion, dedication, and leadership in Belize's healthcare system and beyond. Beyond medicine, Dr. Mejia is a mentor, advocate, and community leader. She has represented Belize internationally, led youth development programs, and played a pivotal role in organizations such as the Progressive Education Assistance Team (PEAT) and the Special Olympics Executive Committee. Her unwavering commitment to public health, education, and inclusion continues to transform lives, embodying her personal motto: 'Changing lives one moment at a time.'

14. Beverly Lemoine Gutierrez for Women and Poverty

Ms. Beverly Lemoine Gutierrez, known as Bev E – is a dedicated Belizean author and activist whose life's work has been centred on uplifting others through Scripture-based guidance. A survivor of immense hardships, she has transformed her experiences into powerful narratives, sharing her journey in her book While Passing Through and the documentary Hokmah's Daughter. Through her writing, stage productions, and quiet yet unwavering service, Bev E continues to inspire and empower countless women, children and communities.

Special Envoy Briceño: "…show how dedication, resilience, and passion does uplift us all. Let's keep pushing forward for a future where every woman and girl thrives!"

March is celebrated in Belize with various activities in all municipalities and by many organizations. This month is special to the Briceño administration as they wholeheartedly recognized that the empowering of women is taking the country forward. In 2025, a society cannot progress if half its citizens are being held back. The record of the planBelize government is clear women are held in high esteem and all jobs are there for equal consideration. There is ***Accelerating Action: Rights, Equality, Empowerment for All Women and Girls.***

ADVISORY
The Ministry of Health & Wellness strongly advises consumers against the purchase or consumption of the supplement:
Artri Ajo King
This product has been found to contain undeclared substances that may pose health risks.
Anyone who has encountered these or other questionable health products is encouraged to report them to the Ministry of Health & Wellness at drugalerts@health.gov.bz or by calling +501-880-2363
SUPLEMENTO ALIMENTICIO
Atri Ajo King
Reforzado con Omega 3
Glucosamina • Ajo
Colágeno • Cúrcuma
Omega 3 • Calcio
Cont. Net. 50 g (100 tabletas)
Government of BELIZE
www.health.gov.bz

UDP IGNORES THE SOUTH

While Failed LOO Leads as Opposition in the Senate

The once mass party the UDP finally scraped up their Senate members. It was obvious that John Saldivar was left out in the cold with pressed tux and all. The interim UDP leader Tracy Panton but Leader of the Opposition in the House has decided not to have anybody from Toledo and Stann Creek Districts representing the party. Lucky for her she has one from the West and one from the North or else she would have ignored more of the country. Tracy, a leader on paper, gets votes from voter transfers and a two more in the House and bam she is a real leader of a minority. Let's repeat here! Tracy was an integral part of the corrupt Barrow hotbeds of corrupt Administration. She has still not confessed to this just as the misogynistic Faber who she now placed in the Senate. Faber was once Leader of the Opposition but when he violently rushed across the video towards his child's mother, he was disqualified. This end for him was not in Tracy's agenda; how can she countenance Faber in the House of Senate. Tracy insults Belize right during Women's month.

That seat could have been given to someone in the South of Belize. Tracy is used to ignoring Belize City southside so ignoring the south of Belize is the same. It is reported that rising UDP Jamal Swaso, from Dangriga, would have been named a senator. Swaso has risen to a rude awakening is the red party.

The flailing UDP appointed two senators from Belize City and one from San Pedro both places where Tracy has political payments to make. The lowly UDP cannot explain why Belize City needed two Senators while there is no representation from the south of Belize.

Of note and question is that Shyne and Peyrefitte have been exiled?

Tracy knows nowhere else but Belize City. The people of Albert should seriously look at the recall mechanism to see how many of Tracy voters really live in the Alberts. Also, the people of Belize will see the almost 100 that live in the same building with Tracy. We have the document.

GoB-Korea-UN

SIB Receive 2 Vehicles and IT Equipment

The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) has received a donation of BZ$283,000 in the form of two vehicles and state-of-the-art IT equipment through a collaboration between the Korean International Cooperation Agency and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This donation is part of a broader initiative entitled the Enabling of Belize's Statistical System Project. Valued at US$2.7 million, the project was secured with the full support of the Government of Belize through the SIB's parent ministry, the Ministry of Economic Development.

It aims to address urgent capacity gaps within the SIB and the country's broader national statistics system. GOB and its development partners, the Korean Government, and organizations within the UN system will continue to partner on these enhancements at the SIB, the country's largest data producer and the coordinator of the nation's statistics system.(post)

ADVISORY

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Artri King

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Government of BELIZE

www.health.gov.bz

Fruit Processing Opportunities in Belize Indian Delegation Explores

March 26, 2025 – A high-level delegation from NABCONS, a consulting arm of India's National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, held productive meetings with senior officials in Belize as part of a site visit under the SME Machinery Grant initiative by the Government of India.

During their visit, the delegation toured the Incubation Center in Central Farm and later visited the Belize Marketing and Development Corporation (BMDC) site, where the Indian government is set to establish an end-to-end fruit juice production line. This initiative aims to process seasonal fruits efficiently, enhancing value addition and market opportunities for local producers.

The project, fully supported by the Government of India, will include the procurement of specialized equipment, maintenance support, and comprehensive capacity-building programs to ensure sustainability and efficiency.

The delegation's visit marks a significant step in strengthening bilateral cooperation between Belize and India in the agricultural sector. It underscores India's commitment to fostering climate-resilient and value-added agricultural practices in Belize. (post)

Hon. Oscar Mira - Others Keeping their Word

Across the nation, the new PUP Area Representatives are making sure that their word continues is planBelize gold. Of course, there are several ways to deliver on promises which may require short, medium or long term schedules. On social media we can see a plethora of short term promises being kept like for example ventilation for classrooms, and of a bicycle that has economic worth for a young man.

Cases like land, housing, free schooling and more intangibles like healthcare, jobs and security are already a part of planBelize 2.0 and may require a longer process. But our people proved on March 12 that there is political maturity and patience in our Belizean electorate. We are on the Right Track and even more lives will be better this 2025-2030 term. The PUP does not have the UDP-13 nor the Covid-19 infections to fight this time. We have a FULL five years of prosperity to improve on with the help of our creator.

So again for example, in Belmopan, Area Representative Oscar Mira has proven that he's a man of his word.

During the campaign, a young supporter named Angel who resides in Las Flores shared his struggle and challenges with walking. He asked his area representative Mira for just one thing, a bicycle to help him get around easily.

True to his promise, less than two weeks after the election, Minister Mira surprised Angel with a brand new beach cruiser.

"It's all I want," Angel had told him. And today, with a big smile, he received exactly that.

A simple gesture, but one that made a world of difference to Angel.

BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD.
Fi WE Boledo!

March 20, 2025

Public Notice

Relocation of Live Boledo, Ordinary & Jackpot Lottery Drawings

The Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. hereby advises the public that effective Sunday, April 27, 2025, the LIVE drawing of the Belize government lottery games; including Boledo, Ordinary Lottery and Jackpot Lottery will be relocated to the City of Belmopan.

The administrative office and all staff of the Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. are located in Belmopan. As a result, the relocation is being carried out to increase efficiency as well as to reduce the risk for the suspension of any future drawings due to the vulnerability of hurricanes and flooding in Belize City.

Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. assures the public that all protocols will continue as per usual. These protocols include:

- Weighing of balls before and after each drawing

- Witnessing of ball weighing by an auditor from the auditing firm of Coye & Associates as well as an officer from the Treasury Department or other Senior Public Service Office to ensure that the weights are within the acceptable weight range as per international guidelines

- Conducting of drawings by supervisory personnel from the Treasury Department or other Senior Public Service Officers.

- Witnessing of drawing by an auditor representing the auditing firm of Coye & Associates

- Live broadcast by Love FM

The new drawing office will be located inside the Emporium Plaza located at Cor. Rio Grande & Nim Li Punit Street, Belmopan City. Belize Government Lotteries Ltd. further reminds the general public that anyone wishing to attend and witness the live public drawings are always welcome to do so.

Fi we Fun, Fi we Profits, Fi we Boledo

www.lotteries.bz

PlanBelize 2.0

WOMEN'S MONTH

Belizean Women Awarded –Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez and NWC

BTB's She Leads, We Celebrate: Women in Tourism

Tote-ally Empowered Session w/ Special Envoy Briceño and OWC UWG

Coast Guard Women celebrating their own

Police Women's Symposium in Toledo

Last of 4 Taiwan embassy-sponsored Expo

Kevin Bernard (OW East) - Health & Wellness

Launch Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan 2025-2034

Dangriga - Hon. Louis Zabaneh

The Work on our streets continue

Belmopan TC and Rep. Oscar Mira

2025 planBelize 2.0 mandate

Surprising Angel while delivering on promise

Ministry of Agriculture – Min. Jose Mai

Visit to a modern Coconut industry farm

Min. Julius Espat, MIDH ALL OVER BELIZE

South of Belize

Southern Highway

In Middlesex

One Sugar Rd. Example(Before, During & After)

Pound Cay Sugar Road in the Czl District

In Belize City

Premix patching taking advantage of the dry spell

Corozal Southwest – Hon. Ramiro Ramirez

Garbage collection in San Narciso village

Potable water on the move

right on track

'Vamos Bien In 2025'

vamos bien

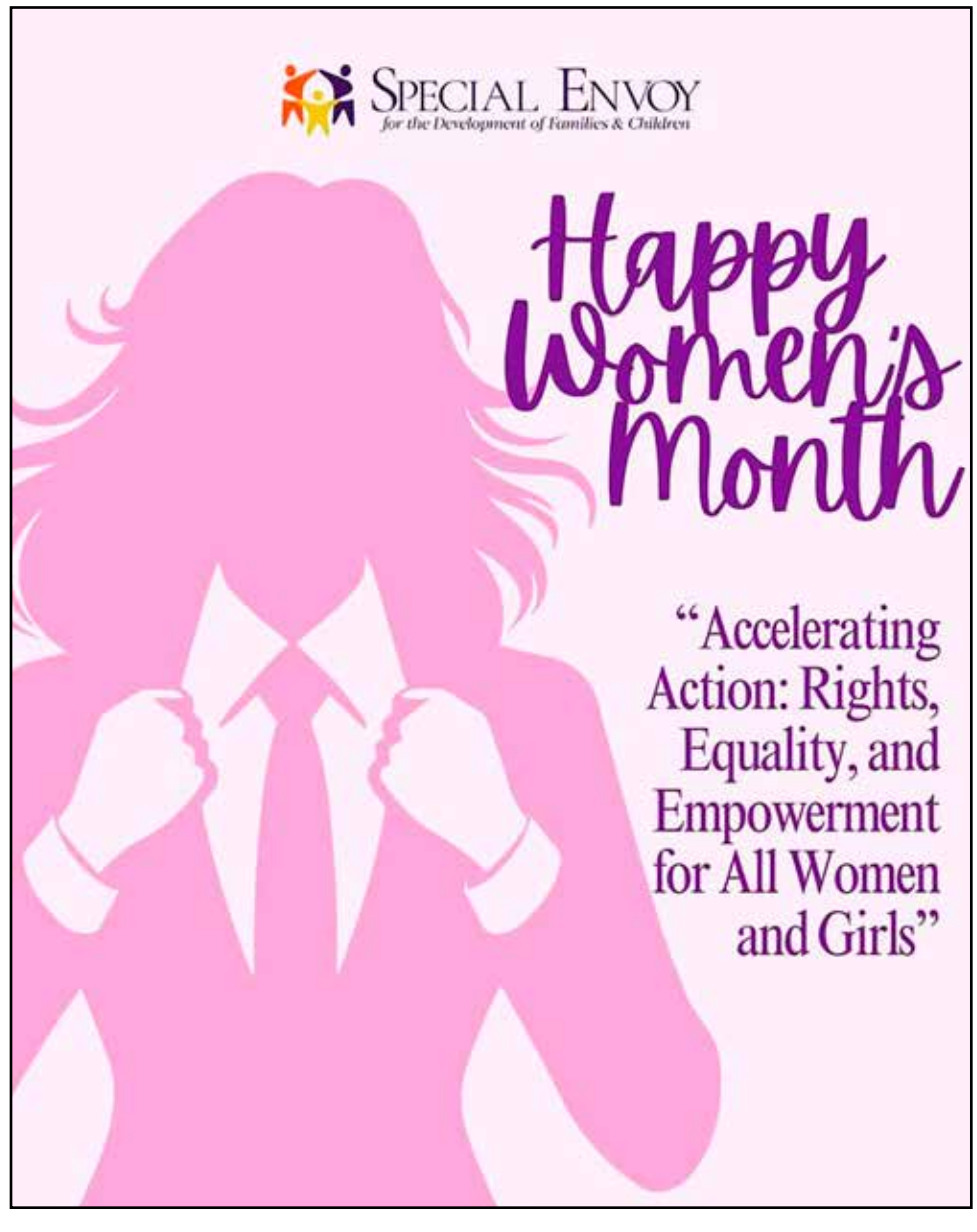
The Passion of Women's Expo Continues in the Culture Capital of Belize

Kudos to all the talented and amazing women entrepreneurs who brought their brilliance to the Dangriga Expo! It was truly a beautiful day, marking the grand finale of four incredible expos hosted under the "Increasing Economic Power for Micro-Entrepreneurs Project" as part of this meaningful Women's Month celebration.

We couldn't be prouder of the 74 remarkable entrepreneurs who showcased their extraordinary talents across four locations—Corozal, Belize City, Cayo, and Dangriga. Each Expo was a dazzling testament to their resilience, creativity, and drive.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who joined us in celebrating these women's outstanding achievements. Special thanks to our exceptional partners —the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support & Gender Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Culture & Immigration—for their unwavering support in making these events a resounding success. (post)

The Expo in Dangriga was the last this year of a remarkable display of yet another Expo showcasing not only Belizean talent but the resilience of women and their achievements. Congratulations!


SPECIAL ENVOY
for the Development of Families & Children
Happy Women's Month
"Accelerating Action: Rights, Equality, and Empowerment for All Women and Girls"

BTB Commemorates Women's History Month

She Leads, We Celebrate: Women of Tourism

On March 21, the Belize Tourism Board hosted the She Leads, We Celebrate: Women of Tourism in Belize Networking Event at the Best Western Plus Belize Biltmore Plaza commemorating International Women's History Month. This event highlighted a month-long campaign honoring strong, resilient women in Belize's tourism industry. The campaign featured twenty-five outstanding women who were publicly nominated across various sectors, including hospitality, tour operations, cultural preservation, culinary arts, and more.

The event commenced with welcome remarks by Mrs. Michelle Bowers-Flowers, Director of Marketing and Communications, BTB. Ms. Nicole Usher-Solano, CEO of the Ministry of Tourism, Youth, Sports, and Diaspora Relations, spoke on Women Who Lead: Shaping Tourism's Future. Mrs. Lucy Fleming, a pioneer in Belize's tourism landscape and co-founder/co-owner of The Lodge at Chaa Creek, delivered the keynote address. She shared insights on leadership, resilience, and innovation.

An engaging and thought-provoking **panel discussion** followed, featuring three dynamic women in tourism: Timotea Mesh (Founder of San Antonio Women's Cooperative), Megs Yearwood (Owner of Barefoot Services), and Rebecca Rath (General Manager of Pelican Beach Resort).

The event concluded with the Cheers to Her Happy Hour Cocktail sponsored by MADISCO. The cocktail allowed attendees to forge connections and pave the way for future partnerships. The elegant furnishings, courtesy of Courts, created a welcoming ambiance for discussions and celebrations. The BTB extends its gratitude to both sponsors for their invaluable support in making this event successful.

Tote-ally Empowered Session w/ OWC women

The Office of the Special Envoy, in collaboration with the Orange Walk Central UWG, hosted a Tote-ally Empowered session.

This dynamic creative painting session was designed to heal, uplift, and inspire.

Through art and self-expression, participants discovered strength and renewal, inspired by the powerful insights of Psychiatric Nurse Rebecca Tillett.

Together, we're breaking barriers, fostering resilience, and embracing the journey to mental well-being!

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Shanine Holland** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Shanz Pizza & Snacks"** located at # 8119 Balan Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Curtis C. Arnold** is applying for a **Convenience Store Liquor License** to be operated at **"Big 8 Company Ltd."** located at # 95 Cemetery Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Prakash Sing Ram Sing Bist** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **"OM Indian Restaurant"** located at # 7 Sundial Avenue, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Juliana A. Humes** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **"Place Yuh Ada"** located on Albert Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Xinglong Xiao** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"X Supermarket"** located at # 1 Jalacate Street, Belmopan City, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Stephanie E. Carcamo** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **"Stephitas Best!"** located on C.A. Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located on at # 17/17A 6th , K.P.A., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Brewing Company Limited** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"Naybaz Store"** located on at # 643 Cemetery Road, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Shuxian Su** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **"November Restaurant"** located on at # 2438 Vernon Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Kimberly A. Searle** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **"The Beer Stop By Kimmy Ling"** located at Memorial Park, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

LOST BOAT REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE:

Notice is hereby given that **Joshua Marin** of Avenida Mangle, Caye Caulker Village, Belize District, owner of an iron barge namely **"WISIC"** bearing registration number **CC- 0191** is declaring the lost of his boat Registration Certificate.

World Water Day (22nd)

"Glacier Preservation"

Celebrated in Corozal Town

On March 21, national organisations from around the country converged at the Andres Campos Civic Center to celebrate World Water Day and to focus on issues affecting the world's water systems.

The theme of this year's event was "Glacier Preservation", more specifically for Belize is 'Groundwater Restoration and Flood Mitigation'.

At the opening ceremony, Mayor Rigo Vellos welcomed all participants and especially the students in attendance. He called on them to pay keen attention to the issues being presented at the booths on display inside the civic center, especially since they focus on their future.

Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., Minister of Rural Transformation, Labour and Local Government, was the keynote speaker. Hon. Florencio underscored the need for action to help create a more sustainable environment for communities.

Data was also presented by Tennielle Williams, the Principal Hydrologist at the Ministry of Natural Resources.

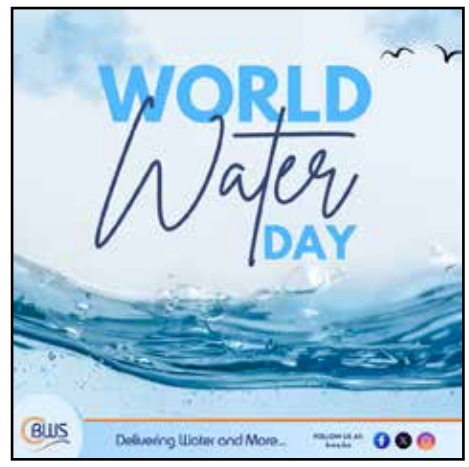
Also in attendance was Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs.

The event was spearheaded by Belize's World Water Day committee and featured several booths to display the work of various entities. (post)

At the event was the Belize Water Services. BWS celebrated World Water Day at this event at the Andres Campus Civic Center in Corozal Town! The team engaged with students, sharing insights on the vital role glaciers play in our planet's water system.

World Water Day reminds us of the importance of protecting our water resources and understanding how climate change impacts them. Let's work together to safeguard water for future generations.

The United Nation has declared 2025 the year of International Year of Glaciers Preservation.



Lois Faber

The Faber family announces the loss of their beloved mother, Lois Faber age 100.

She is predeceased by Mother Leolin Neal Lopez, Father Basillio Lopez, Husband Lloyd Christopher Faber Sr., Sons: John Christopher Faber, Ronald Milton Faber; Granddaughter Virginia Renee Ozaeta, and Aunt Chloe Greene.

She is survived by Children: Jenieve Faber-Gill, Lloyd Faber Jr., Audrey Faber, Daphne Faber and Lois Faber-Highsmith.

Also survived by Grandchildren: Winzil Gill, Vaughan Gill, Leslie Bennett, Christopher Bennett, Jacqueline Faber-Malcom, Marlon Faber, Coretta Faber-Brown, John Paul Faber, Christopher Faber, Milton Faber, Bjorn Faber, Landon Faber, Logan Faber, Chris Faber, Marty Ozaeta and Julian Highsmith.

32 Great-grandchildren.

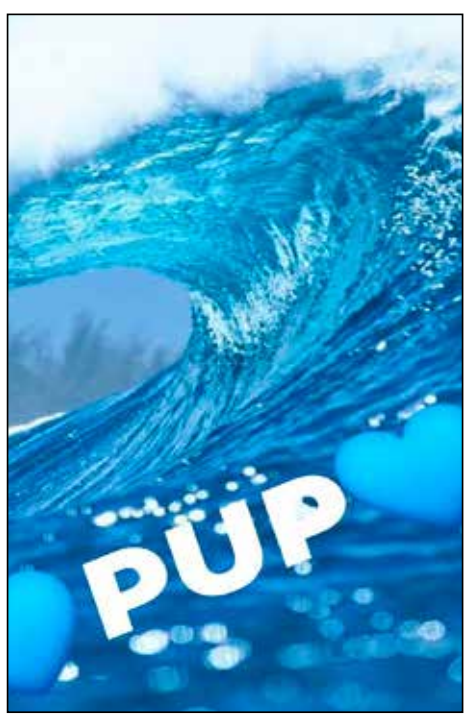
Daughters-in-law: Jennifer Swift Faber and Cecilia Faber

Son-in-law: Donald Highsmith.

Grand Daughters-in-law: Virginia Gill and Lottie Gill.

Mass for Lois Neal Lopez-Faber will be held Friday April 4th, 2025, at Madonna Del Sasso Catholic Church, Monterey, California.

May her memory be a blessing



The International Day of Forests

"Forests and Food" March 21

March 21st, 2025.

The Belize Forest Department joins the world in commemorating International Day of Forests 2025. In 2012, the United Nations Assembly declared March 21st as "International Day of Forests" with the objective of raising awareness of the importance of forest types and trees outside of forests.

This year's theme, **"Forests and Food,"** promotes the crucial roles of forests in food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. In addition to providing food, fuel, income, and employment, forests support soil fertility, protect water resources, and offer habitats for biodiversity, including vital pollinators.

Forests provide numerous services, including fresh air, clean water, and recreational opportunities. In developed countries, up to 25% of all medicinal drugs are plant-based; in developing countries, the contribution is as high as 80%. Our forests provide those essential services necessary for our survival and sustenance, as well as a backdrop for our food security, climate regulation, and economic stability.

In Belize, our local communities have a direct link to forests for traditional medicine, and cultural and spiritual practices while serving as stewards of our forest resources. We can all continue to do our part in practicing the sustainable use of our forest resources to ensure our livelihoods.

The Forest Department is commemorating this day by once more pledging its commitment to restoring "greener spaces." This year, the Forest Department has partnered with the Belmopan City Council, the National Climate Change Office, the Protected Areas Conservation Trust, and the Department of the Environment to plant timber, fruit trees, and ornamental plants in key areas to restore and beautify green spaces. To further encourage stewardship, the Forest Department is also hosting a "Forests and Food" photo competition and a high school trivia competition.

The public is encouraged to participate in community planting events, helping to foster a sense of stewardship for local ecosystems. By engaging citizens in these efforts, the Forest Department hopes to enhance awareness about the importance of forests and the critical role they play in our environment and well-being. By participating in tree-planting activities, we create healthier and more resilient communities.(release)

"Overseeing the sustainable management of Belize's Forest Resources"

Strengthening the Belize Forest Department Via Governance and Management Effectiveness in Belize's Blue Space

March 21, 2025 – As part of the efforts toward enhancing mangrove conservation, carbon stock assessment, and environmental monitoring, the Belize Forest Department has been equipped with a **Toyota Hilux vehicle valued at BZ$91,823**. This investment will strengthen the department's Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) Unit, facilitating field activities essential for updating Belize's mangrove map, conducting carbon stock assessments, and mobilizing critical data collection efforts.

This initiative will enhance operational efficiency, ensuring improved monitoring and reporting of mangrove cover, and ongoing restoration activities. Additionally, the vehicle will support compliance with newly designated mangrove reserves and regulations, reinforcing Belize's conservation commitments under the Belize Blue Bond Agreement.

Funded through the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future under the Government Strategic Allocation (GSA), this investment is part of the project, "Establishing the Enabling Environment for the Development of a Marine Spatial Plan through Strengthened Governance, Improved Management, and Enhanced Monitoring of Belize's Coastal and Marine Resources." This initiative underscores Belize's commitment to empowering government agencies in achieving critical conservation milestones outlined in the Conservation Fund Agreement (CFA) under the Blue Bond.

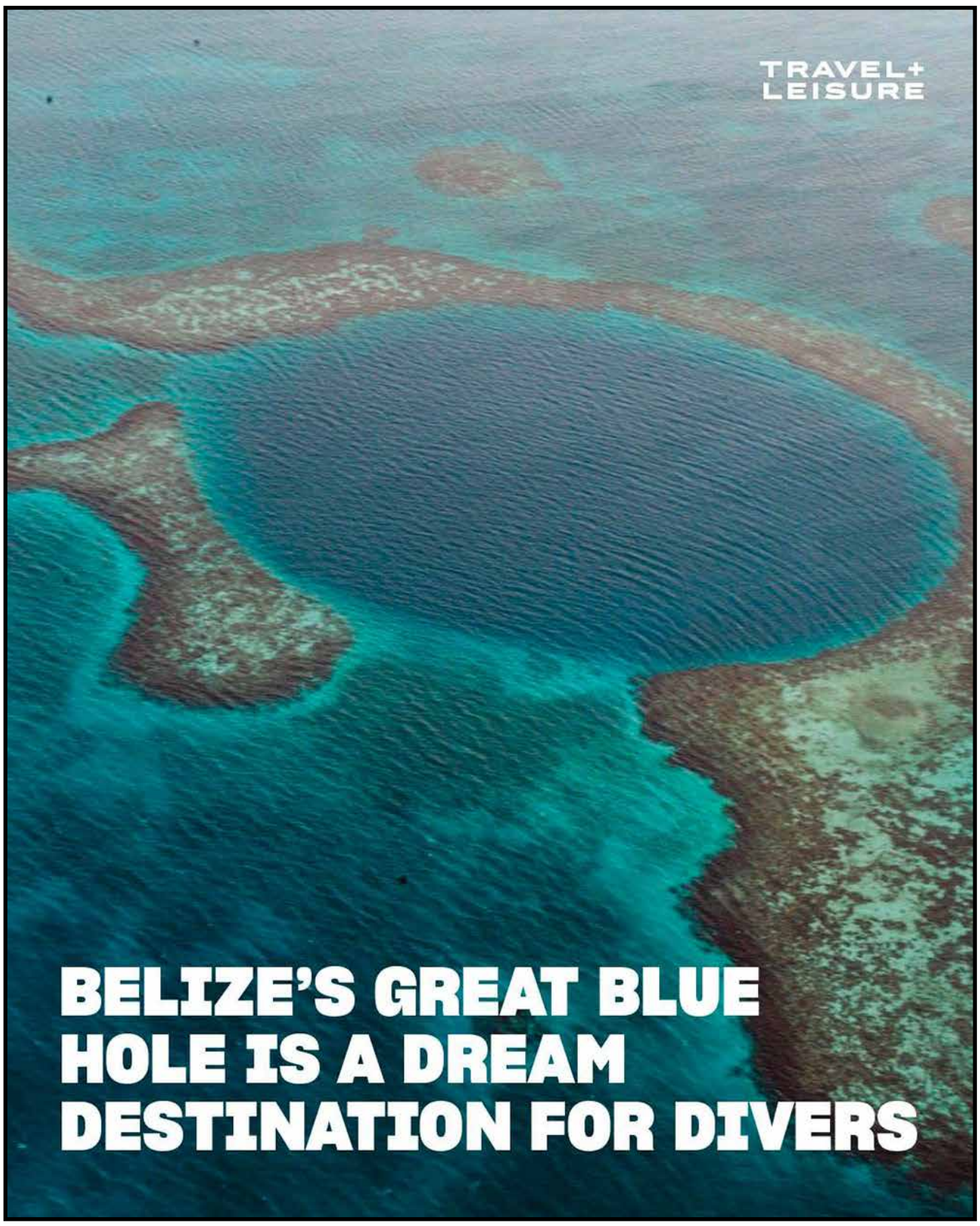
Mangrove ecosystems are essential for coastal protection, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration, playing a key role in Belize's climate resilience and sustainable marine resource management.

The continued support of the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit and the Belize Fund for a Sustainable Future is central to advancing Belize's marine conservation efforts and ensuring the sustainable development of its Blue Economy—for nature and people. (BLUE BOND AND FINANCE PERMANENCE UNIT in OPM release)

Town Councils at Board of Survey Training

Deputy mayors from town councils nationwide attended the Board of Survey Training Session hosted by the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour, and Local Government.

The training aimed to enhance financial oversight, asset management, and auditing procedures, promoting greater accountability and efficiency in municipal governance as we approach the new fiscal year in municipal governance. This training underscores the planBelize commitment to transparent and effective leadership for the benefit of everyone.



Women of the Belize Coast Guard

March 21 - As part of Women's Month celebrations, the women of the Belize Coast Guard continued their commitment to community service with a meaningful initiative in the Belmopan area. Their efforts began with the tiling and painting of the grave of the late Seaman Venegas, honoring her service and ensuring that her resting place is well-maintained. At the same time, they undertook a thorough cleanup of the surrounding area, demonstrating respect and care for the community.

In addition to this, **the women visited the University of Belize (UB) Preschool**, where they engaged with young children in an interactive and educational session. They showcased various pieces of equipment used by the Belize Coast Guard, explaining their importance in maritime safety and security. This hands-on experience provided the preschoolers with valuable insights into the role of the Coast Guard while also inspiring a sense of curiosity and admiration for those who serve. The session concluded with fun and engaging games, fostering a positive connection between the officers and the children.

This community service initiative holds great significance. **Maintaining the grave of a fallen servicewoman** not only preserves her legacy but also reinforces the value of service and remembrance within the community. Cleaning the area contributes to a respectful and dignified environment for all. Additionally, engaging with young children at the preschool helps build awareness about the Coast Guard's role, instills an early sense of civic responsibility, and encourages future generations to consider careers in service and leadership.

Through these activities, the **women of the Belize Coast Guard exemplify leadership**, compassion, and dedication, proving that their contributions extend beyond their official duties to positively impact the communities they serve. (post)

Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the

observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

Amen.

PEN-FRIENDS WANTED:

Switzerland friend interested in Belize, looking for Belizean pen-friends. Please write in English or German to the following address:

Vitus Castelberg
Aspermonststr 19
CH-7000 CHUR
Switzerland (Europe)

The Dry Season Is Here!
Wildfire Prevention Starts With You!
#ReduceTheBlaze
Protect Your Community By:
Avoiding outdoor burning
Never leaving fires unattended
Clearing dry leaves/bush around homes
Ensure maximum protection for your homes, businesses, farms & forests.
Contact Us
990

Toledo Police Formation

Successful Women's Symposium

"Catalysts of Change: Women Leading the Way"

On Thursday, March 20, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Toledo Police Formation hosted a successful symposium, bringing together female police officers and civilian staffs from the entire southern region. The event was honored by the presence of distinguished guests, including Commissioner of Police Chester C. Williams, Sandra Bowden, Deputy Commissioner of Police; Western Regional Commander, ACP Suzette Anderson; Southern Regional Commander Sr. Supt. John Moreira; and Officers Commanding ISF, Dangriga, Placencia, and Punta Gorda.

The symposium began with a formal uniform inspection conducted by Commissioner of Police Chester Williams, followed by a brief opening ceremony. In his address, the Commissioner delivered words of encouragement, setting a positive tone for the day's activities.

Motivational speakers included Mrs. Gwen Núñez González, Ann-Marie Williams, and Ms. Lisa Rocke from UWI, who emphasized the importance of higher education for professional women. Dr. Leon Leslie from LOTUS also contributed valuable insights.

The event featured a panel discussion on women in leadership roles within the public sector, fostering dialogue on the challenges and opportunities for female professionals in law enforcement and beyond. (post)

In 2023, a record number of women police (62) were promoted. In the year and subsequent major crimes have been in a decline; is that a coincidence or a direct result of planBelize multisectoral approach. The work to keep our citizens safe is ongoing and our women are definitely an important part of that task.

REQUEST FOR BIDS
(GOODS)

IDB

Supply And Delivery of Furniture & Equipment –
Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise

Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Country:	Belize
Project:	Sustainable and Inclusive Belize Program – (SIBP)
Process ID:	BL-L1041-P00047
Deadline:	**April 11, 2025;** 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project – Sustainable and Inclusive Belize Program – (SIBP). A portion of the proceeds of this loan will be applied for the **purchase *and delivery of equipment for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise.***

The Ministry of Finance now invites eligible bidders to submit sealed quotations for the Supply, Delivery and Installation for the following lots of items:

No.	Brief Description	Quantity
Lot 1	Computer Equipment	Available in bidding document
Lot 2	Assorted Equipment	Available in bidding document
Lot 3	Office Furniture	Available in bidding document

Bidders are allowed to quote for ALL Lots or Bidders are allowed to quote on either one of the Lots. All items per lot must be included to be considered responsive.

For further information and to obtain the complete bidding document, peruse the link below https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/

Bids can be delivered to the address below no later than **10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)** on **April 11, 2025**. **Late bids will be rejected.**

Karon Hamilton
Procurement Specialist Assistant
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan City
Tel: 501-828-9228
Email khamilton.ceu@cpu.mof.gov.bz

Scan Here For More Details:

LETTER TO THE Editor

Patriotism vs. $$$ — The FFB Must Do Better

Dear Editor,

Belizean football is in crisis. Our humiliating 13-1 aggregate loss to Costa Rica in the Gold Cup Prelims is not just about the players—it is a glaring indictment of the Football Federation of Belize (FFB). For too long, mismanagement, lack of investment, and poor treatment of our athletes have held back the potential of our national team.

When players sit out in protest over unfair compensation, it signals deep-rooted problems. A $100 stipend for rigorous training is an insult. Meanwhile, regional journalists are exposing the embarrassing lack of organization, from inadequate transportation to players moonlighting as taxi drivers. This is unacceptable.

New Minister of Sports Anthony Mahler has promised a transformation and I am sure this will happen. As to the FFB, FIFA's oversight limits government intervention. FFB President Sergio Chuc downplays the crisis, yet Belizean football fans demand accountability. Still, change at the FFB is urgent. The FFB must prioritize players' well-being, invest in infrastructure, and demand better resources.

My child is an athlete and she is looking for a future in sports. Should I put blinders on her to not see the present FFB. Our athletes deserve respect, fair compensation, and the tools to compete globally. If the current FFB leadership cannot deliver, they should step aside. Belizean football cannot afford more failures.

Sincerely,
Zane Ferguson

LETTER TO THE Editor

A Balanced and Progressive Senate for Belize

Dear Editor,

The Briceño Administration's second-term Senate appointments reflect a bold and balanced approach—one that values experience while embracing the energy of youth and the strength of women in leadership. This selection signals a continued commitment to inclusive governance, ensuring diverse perspectives shape national policy.

The inclusion of young, dynamic leaders highlights the government's dedication to youth empowerment, giving them a seat at the table where decisions are made. Women, who have long been the backbone of our society, are also well-represented, reinforcing the administration's commitment to gender equality. Alongside them, seasoned senators bring invaluable experience and wisdom, creating a well-rounded team ready to deliver for Belize.

This mixture of youth, women, and senior legislators ensures a forward-thinking Senate that will work in the best interest of the people. The Briceño Administration has once again demonstrated its commitment to progress, and Belize stands to benefit from strong, inclusive leadership in the years ahead.

Sincerely,
Jya Thomas

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Supply of Honey Processing and Packaging Equipment in 6 Lots

Country: Belize
Project: Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Assignment Title: *Supply of Honey Processing and Packaging Equipment in 6 Lots*
Reference No.: RRB.G.30

The Government of Belize through the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Green Climate Fund ("GCF") towards the cost of Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the works for which this Request for Bids (RFB) is issued.

The works, and the contract/s expected to be awarded, are divided into the following lots:

Lot 1: Purchase of Honey processing equipment (Green Creek Farmers' Cooperative, San Jose Village, Toledo District; Orange Walk Beekeepers, Yo Creek Village, Orange Walk District; Caanan Livestock & Farmers Association, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District; Maya Golden Honey, San Felipe Village, Orange Walk District)

Lot 2: Purchase of Beehive boxes (Green Creek Farmers' Cooperative, San Jose Village, Toledo District; Orange Walk Beekeepers, Yo Creek Village, Orange Walk District; Caanan Livestock & Farmers Association, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District; Maya Golden Honey, San Felipe Village, Orange Walk District)

Lot 3: Purchase of Honey packaging and marketing supplies (Green Creek Farmers' Cooperative, San Jose Village, Toledo District; Caanan Livestock & Farmers Association, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District)

Lot 4: Purchase of Bee-keeping maintenance equipment (Maya Golden Honey, San Felipe Village, Orange Walk District)

Lot 5: Purchase of Honey packaging equipment (Orange Walk Beekeepers, Yo Creek Village, Orange Walk District; Caanan Livestock & Farmers Association, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District)

Lot 6: Design and printing of Labels (Green Creek Farmers' Cooperative, San Jose Village, Toledo District; Caanan Livestock & Farmers Association, Benque Viejo Town, Cayo District)

A bid security in the amounts specified is required for the following lots:

- Lot 1: $1,500.00 (Belize Dollars)
- Lot 2: $1,800.00 (Belize Dollars)

A bid-securing declaration is required for the following lots:

- Lot 3
- Lot 4
- Lot 5
- Lot 6

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment/Resilient Rural Belize Programme now invites construction firms to submit bids for the construction of works as outlined in the Request for Bids (RFB) documentation. Contractor/s will be selected using the **national competitive bidding (NCB)** method in accordance with the IFAD Procurement Handbook accessible at www.ifad.org/project-procurement. The NCB process will include a review and verification of qualifications and past performance, including a reference check, prior to the contract award.

Bidders interested in submitting a bid shall request the full bidding document by sending an e-mail, giving full contact details of the bidder, to the following point of contact. This will ensure that the bidders receive the full bidding document (RFB) as well as updates regarding this procurement procedure.

Resilient Rural Belize Programme
Attn: Lemuel Palacio, Senior Procurement Officer
Hummingbird Highway
National Agriculture Showgrounds,
City of Belmopan, Belize
E-mail: l**palacio.rrb@med.gov.bz**
Copied to: Nadia Vernon, **nvernon.rrb@med.gov.bz**

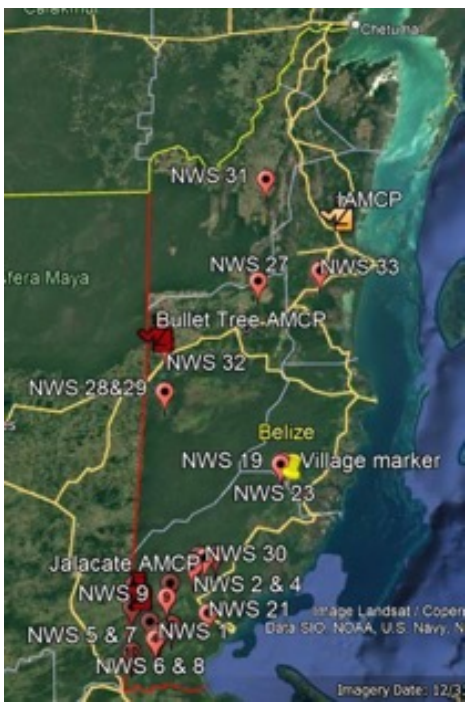
Please note that bids can be submitted either physically or electronically. In submitting a physical bid, the bidder must submit one (1) original and 2 copies, sealed in two separate inner envelopes, enclosed in one outer envelope, sealed and marked as per ITB 23.2(c), and addressed to the address stated above. In addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flash drive also included in the sealed outer envelope. Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected, single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the email address stated above. The password shall be submitted in a separate email, five (5) to ten (10) minutes after the bid submission deadline and before the public opening of bids as specified in BDS 24.1 and 27.1.

The pre-bid meeting shall be held at the following address: Resilient Rural Belize Programme Office, Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Show Grounds, City of Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize, C.A. The date and time of the pre-bid meeting is April 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. local time.

The deadline for submission of bids shall be no later than **April 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** local time at the address above.

Action Needed

New World Screwworm (Cochliomyia hominivorax) Prevention



The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and Enterprise (MAFSE) inform the public that Belize has confirmed 33 (thirty-three) cases of New World Screwworm, to date. Presently, there are 27 (twenty-seven) cases in Toledo, 4 (four) cases in Cayo, 1 (one) case in the Belize District, and 1 (one) case in the Orange Walk District. Animals affected include cattle, pigs, dogs, sheep, and a horse. (see map below)

Everyone is reminded that key preventative measures include **consistent inspection of animals, curing of wounds with approved larvicides, early notification, and controlled movement of animals.**

Other key points include:

- **Immediate reporting of all cases of myiasis (infestation of wounds by larvae) to the nearest BAHA office, MAFSE office, or healthcare provider.**
- **Declaring all animals (including pets) upon arrival at an Animal Movement Control Point. These are in Sandhill, Bullet Tree Falls, and Jalacte.**
- **Ensuring small stock and livestock are physically inspected and have an NWS Health Inspection Certificate and Movement Permit.**
- **Ensuring movement of all small stock and livestock during daylight hours.**
- **Importing animals only with the approval and authorization of BAHA.**
- **Do not import animals through a non-established point of entry.**

The public is reminded that any person who contravenes the Belize Agricultural Health Authority Statutory Instrument 143 of 2024: New World Screwworm Prevention, Control, and Eradication Regulations, commits an offense and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

Cases of suspect larval infestations in animals can be reported to the BAHA Animal Health Department offices at 302-1388 in Orange Walk, 824-4872 in Central Farm, or via WhatsApp at 670-7003. For further information, email the Animal Health Department at animalhealth@baha.org.bz or call 8244872. (release)

LETTER TO THE Editor

Failing the Fans of Belize, FFB

Dear Editor,

The Football Federation of Belize (FFB), formerly the Belize National Football Association (BNFA) led by President Sergio Chuc among others, has failed football and by extension failed Belize.

The aggregate 13 -1 score against Costa Rica is not a FFB loss, but a Belize loss. Our players represented the jewel. The FFB responsibility was and is to place our teams in the best position to succeed.

FFB has received millions in grants to, as they say, organize competitions in all their forms at the national and internationals levels that will allow for more fans to be attracted to the game and to develop football in Belize by implementing the necessary program structures and technical direction.

Even prior to these matches against Costa Rica, it was clear for everyone to see that the objectives for which the FFB officials are handsomely paid were not being met. Fan support to football games keeps dropping because the second objective of developing the game was not being met. The level of football in Belize is deteriorating at an alarming rate.

The last time Belize qualified to the Gold Cup was in 2003. It would take us 22 years to qualify again to the preliminary round after a draw with French Guiana. In this round, we were routed by Costa Rica and the public outcry, totally warranted, was rightfully aimed at the FFB and its appointed Coach, Charlie Slusher. The public outcry came from the hearts of people TIRED of losing especially seeing that we CAN do better. We see our children excel BUT our adults somehow someway have a seemingly surmountable barrier.

Is that barrier the FFB leadership structure? Social Media was alive calling for new leadership at the FFB. The practical and logical thing for them to do would be to tender their resignation. They have manipulated football for too long with zero positive results. In both male and female disciplines, we continue to be embarrassed on the international fronts.

Sport in the Heart

J. Navarro

BWS

Invitation for Bids

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Belize

Water Supply & Modernization Program

5754/OC-BL

Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network

BL-L1043-P00001

1. The *Belize Water Services Limited has received financing* from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of *Water Supply & Modernization Program* and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the Contract for *Supply and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment for BWS Network.*
2. *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *Purchase and Installation of Water Disinfection Equipment.*
3. The Request for Bids will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's Policies for the Procurement of Works and Goods financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Policies.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Water Services Limited, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Specialist, rce@bwsl.com.bz;* and inspect the bidding document at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Belize local time.*
5. Qualifications requirements include *Goods must meet technical specifications, financials, power of attorney and other requirements.* A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically *"shall not",* be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in *English* may be requested by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before *2:00 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025.* Electronic bidding *will not* be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at *2:15 p.m. Belize local time on May 2nd, 2025*. All bids must be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of *10% of bid price per lot* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
8. The address(es) referred to above is(are):

   Ms. Jahnina Reyes,
   Procurement Specialist,
   Belize Water Services Limited,
   7 Central American Boulevard,
   Belize City, Belize C.A.
   +501-222-4757

Resilient Bold Belize
WWF GEF Blue and Green Islands IP Child Project

Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit

TERMS OF REFERENCE: PROJECT MANAGER

Background

As part of the Blue and Green Islands GEF8 Integrated program, the Resilient Bold Belize project aims to secure the long-term conservation and resilience of Belize´s marine and coastal ecosystems, promoting nature-based livelihoods and the wellbeing of Belizeans.

The Belize project will catalyze a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) initiative, a major private-public partnership, led by the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit within the Office of Prime Minister. The PFP will integrate the value of nature into the tourism and fisheries sectors, strengthen policy coherence, institutional capacity for gender inclusive conservation planning, and strengthen capacities for financial planning and domestic resource mobilization. The proposed PFP approach will foster impactful outcomes resulting in improved management coastal PAs, MPAs, plus mangrove and other coastal ecosystems outside of the formal PA system, and improvement of targeted communities' livelihoods

The Project Manager will be appointed by the Project Executing Agency and funded entirely from the Project. The PM will be responsible for the overall management of the Project, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. The PM will report to the Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit Director for all of the Project's substantive and administrative issues. From the strategic point of view of the Project, the PM will report on a periodic basis to the Project Steering Committee, Generally, the PM will support the BBFP who will be responsible for meeting executing agency obligations under the Project. The PM will perform a liaison role with the government, CSOs and project partners, and maintain close collaboration with other donor agencies providing co-financing. 100% time will be dedicated to managing and executing the project, with time dedicated to the technical execution of project Components 1 and 3.

Responsibilities

Project Management:

•Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the approved workplan.

• Supervise and Coordinate the production of project outputs, as per the project document in a timely and high quality fashion

• Coordinate the recruitment and selection of project personnel, consultants and sub-contracts, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications and overseeing all contractors' work.

• Manage requests for the provision and commitment of financial resources through direct payments, or reimbursement.

• Prepare, revise and submit project work and financial plans, as required by Project Steering Committee.

• Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports, submitted on a quarterly basis.

• Manage and monitor the project risks initially identified and submit new risks to the Project Steering Committee for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log.

• Liaise with BBFP and the Project Steering Committee, relevant government agencies, and all project partners, including donor organizations and CSOs for effective coordination of all project activities.

• Facilitate administrative support to subcontractors and training activities supported by the Project.

• Oversee and ensure timely submission of the Inception Report, Project Implementation Report, technical reports, quarterly financial reports, and other reports as may be required by the WWF, GEF and other oversight agencies.

• Disseminate project reports and respond to queries from concerned stakeholders.

• Oversee the exchange and sharing of experiences and lessons learned with other relevant development projects nationally and internationally.

• Encourage staff, partners and consultants to actively include women in the project, including the budgeting, staff and consultant hiring, subcontracting, purchasing, formal community governance and advocacy, outreach to social organizations, training, participation in meetings; and access to program benefits.

• Day-to-day management, monitoring and evaluation of project activities and results as outlined in the ProDoc, Grant Agreement, and Annual Work Plan and Budget to achieve the project objective and targets in the Results Framework

• Hold monthly virtual meetings with the partners involved in each outcome.

• Manage the workflow for the Project Steering Committee (PSC)

• In collaboration with all project sub-grantees and partners, develop the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for each project year, for approval by the PSC and no-objection from the WWF GEF Agency

• Provide high level oversight and monitoring of procurement and expenditure in line with the AWPB

• Review progress of work plan and monitoring plan

• Lead planning and organization for reflection workshop to identify lessons learned and propose potential changes for adaptive management to ensure project results and indicator targets are reached

• Responsible for organization of Kick-Off workshop and other project-level workshops/ meetings

• Manage the design of a project website, and its ongoing maintenance and updates

• Represent the project and provide support for project supervisions and internal and external reviews/evaluations

• Supervise and coordinate the work of all project staff, consultants and sub-contractors ensuring timing ang quality of outputs;

- o MEK Officer
- o Financial Assistant
- o Safeguards and Gender Officer
- o any directly recruited staff or consultants

• Prepare TORs to recruit consultants, staff and sub-contracts in consultation with and for no-objection from WWF GEF Agency

• Formulate semi-annual Project Progress Reports and ensure timely delivery to the WWF GEF Agency

• Oversee the preparation and disbursement of sub-grants

• Oversee development of quarterly financial reports and ensure timely delivery to the WWF GEF Agency

• Ensure co-finance reporting on a yearly basis

• Provide quality assurance for project activities, including in sub-grants

• Review reports and other products from consultants, staff, and sub-grantees, and ensure quality

• Ensure implementation in line with the GEF and WWF standards and policies

Partnerships:

• Coordinate with co-financing partners and liaise with project partners to ensure co-financing commitments are realized

• Ensure smooth coordination and communication among all project partners, and with the Program partners

• Manage stakeholder engagement throughout the project duration

• Represent the project, as needed, at various meetings and workshops

• Identifies, coordinates and expedites the communication of information and issues both interdepartmentally and intra departmentally, as well as externally with subrecipients, the Project Steering Committee, the WWF GEF Agency and independent evaluators as necessary.

Technical Delivery of Project Components:

• Component 1 will create the conditions for initiating the implementation of the PFP for the long term effective management of marine and coastal PAs and priority ecosystems, co-developed and agreed by Government and non-government stakeholders.

Within this component, The project manager will:

o Aid in implementing an action plan for capacity building for executing partners through the delivery of workshops and trainings

o Deliver the action plan to help executing partners build absorptive capacity

• Component 3 will focus on Strengthened communications, coordination and knowledge management at national and global levels in alignment with the Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program.

Within this component, The project manager will:

o Participate in Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program events such as annual BGI IP Meetings, regional nodes, south-to-south exchanges as needed

o Represent the Belize Child project at external facing workshops and events

o Keep abreast of BGI IP news and engagements

Qualifications and Requirements

Required Skills and Expertise

• A master's degree in project management, Business Administration or any other natural resource management, environmental conservation, or any other related field.

• At least five years of demonstrable project management experience.

• At least five years of experience working in the natural resources/ environmental field.

• At least five years of experience working with Government Ministries, National Institutions that are concerned with natural resource and/ or environmental management.

Competencies

• Strong leadership, managerial and coordination skills, with a demonstrated ability to effectively coordinate the implementation of large multi-stakeholder projects, including financial and technical aspects.

• Ability to effectively manage technical and administrative teams, work with a wide range of stakeholders across various sectors and at all levels, to develop durable partnerships with collaborating agencies.

• Ability to administer budgets, train and work effectively with counterpart staff at all levels and with all groups involved in the projects

• Ability to coordinate and supervise multiple Project staff and consultants in their implementation of technical activities in partnership with a variety of subnational stakeholder groups, including community and government.

• Strong communication skills, especially in timely and accurate response to emails.

• Working experiences/familiarity with the Government of Belize process and procedures is an asset.

• Strong leadership, management, and interpersonal skills with proven ability to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team, motivate quality work and promote team building.

• Proven ability to manage human resources within a project context and to follow the rules of consultative and adaptive management.

• Experience in delivering technical and financial reporting to donor agencies on projects

• Technical experience and knowledge in the thematic area of the project

• Experience with GEF Projects and GEF knowledge an advantage

• Fluency in written and spoken English is indispensable; Spanish would be an additional asset.

• Ability and willingness to undertake extensive local travel.

• Sound computer skills including Microsoft Office, QuickBooks, and other relevant applications.

Supervision

The Project Manager will report directly to the Director of the BBFP.

Duty Station: Belize City

Payment Arrangements- The salary of the contract commensurate with experience and qualifications.

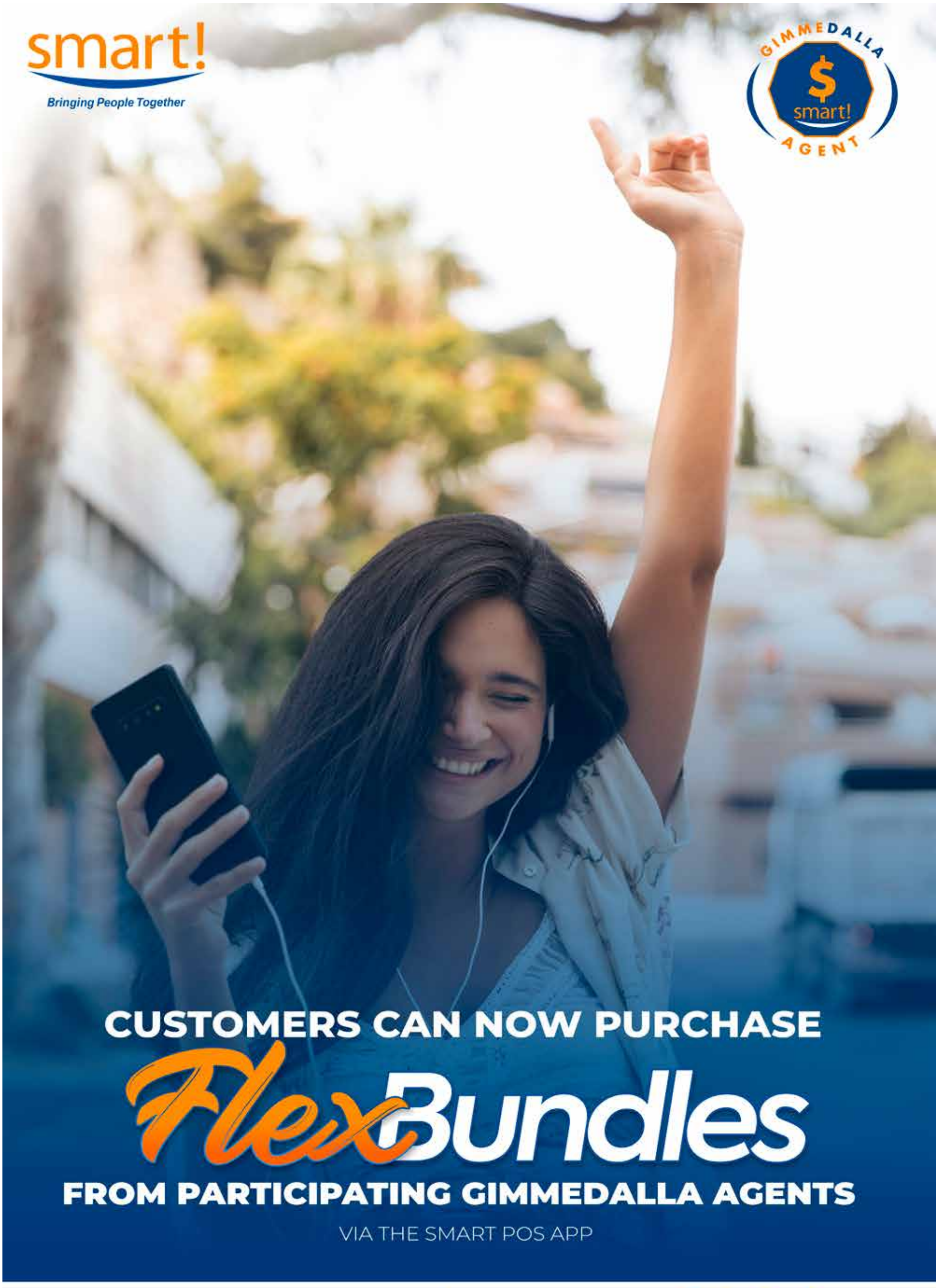
Estimated Starting Date and Duration

Start date will be effective at contract signature. A contract will be renewed biannually based on an assessment of performance and requires full-time commitment.

Those interested in filling the vacancy for the position of Project Manager should send an Expression of Interest and CV along with three references to email: TO.bbfpunit@opm.gov.bz or printed to the following address by **Friday, 11th April 2025 no later than 4:00 p.m.**

3rd Floor, Eleanor Hall Building
Lake Independence Boulevard
Belize City

Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. Those shortlisted will be invited to an interview with the Committee. Due diligence will be done to validate the information included in the CV or the information provided during the interviews.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